

findings. Dams serve as good "eagle feeders" so long as other habitat features are present. While a few fish may go through turbines, increased water turbulence and the current below dams may attract feeding fish, hence the eagles. Perch sites below dams and other features of surrounding habitats may also be important attraction factors. Of 15 dams in the study area, only six had consistent eagle use. Studies are needed to determine why some dams are more attractive to eagles than others. Habitat management at dams should increase their use by bald eagles.

ODDITY OR CONSPICUOUSNESS: PREY SELECTION BY FREE-RANGING AMERICAN KESTRELS

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Tests were conducted to determine if oddity or conspicuousness was the greatest determining factor in prey selection by free-ranging American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*). Previous studies have had difficulty separating these characteristics. Dual-cell bal-chattris were dropped along roadsides giving kestrels a choice of brown and white mice on natural vegetation and snow. Mice were paired in sex, size, and activity. Bal-chattris were painted to match the background. On natural vegetation, kestrels showed no preference ($P = 0.6547$) for brown mice ($N = 9$) over odd, conspicuous white mice ($N = 11$). On snow, kestrels showed a highly significant preference ($P \leq 0.005$) for conspicuous brown mice ($N = 17$) over odd white mice ($N = 3$). Conspicuousness of prey seems to play a more important role than oddity in prey selection by American kestrels. There might be a tendency to avoid odd prey even though they are conspicuous, because they do not fit the specific searching image and are an unknown risk.

EFFECTS OF FOOD AVAILABILITY ON BREEDING AMERICAN KESTRELS IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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I studied the effects of food supply on the reproduction of American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) near Boise, Idaho in 1992 and 1993. Evidence suggests that availability of the principal prey, mountain voles (*Microtus montanus*) declined during the 2-yr study. The breeding activity of kestrels at 126 available boxes was monitored, and some pairs were supplementally fed Japanese quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and house mice (*Mus musculus*). Reproductive variables monitored included timing of breeding, proportion of pairs abandoning eggs, clutch size, egg mortality/fertility, hatching synchrony within broods, brood sex ratio, nesting success, and productivity. Pairs occupying nest boxes received one of three treatments: visited frequently and supplementally fed; visited frequently and not supplementally fed; or visited infrequently and not supplementally fed. Each year, 60 boxes (48% of those available)

were occupied by kestrels. I compared reproductive variables of treatment groups between and within years. Kestrels in all treatment groups bred later, showed increased abandonment, laid smaller clutches, and had lower productivity in 1993 than in 1992. A higher proportion of 1993 pairs abandoned boxes prior to hatching at frequently visited sites relative to infrequently visited ones; in addition, abandonment was more common at sites not supplemented with food. These results indicate that food-stressed kestrels may breed later, produce smaller clutches, and be more sensitive to human disturbance than better-fed birds.

ARTIFICIAL NESTING SITES AND NON-MIGRATORY OSPREYS IN A COASTAL LAGOON OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

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The use of artificial nesting sites to raise osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) populations in North America is well documented in the literature. However, practical experiences in this matter with the nonmigratory ospreys of México are scarce or nonexistent. In this work, we present a case-study of the use of artificial nesting sites for an osprey population at Scammon's Lagoon in the Baja California peninsula. In 1946, 27 ground-nesting pairs were breeding on small islands in the lagoon. In the late-1970s, several nests were located on man-made structures outside the islands. In 1982, 87 of 111 nests were on natural sites and 24 were on artificial sites; 14 of these were constructed as specific nesting sites on the islands. Since 1982, more artificial nest sites have been added or occupied by ospreys. In 1993, 58 of 126 nests (46%), were on man-made structures. We suggest that their population and distribution may have been positively influenced by the availability of artificial nesting sites. In addition, we discuss the role of the local community on these changes.

STATUS OF THE OSPREY AT SCAMMON'S LAGOON, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

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In this work we present information on the changes in abundance and distribution over the last 47 yr of the non-migratory osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) at a lagoon on the west coast of the Baja California peninsula. According to our 1993 surveys, 126 pairs were breeding at the lagoon, 67.4% of them were located on four small islands and 32.5% on channel markers, shorelines and inland. These figures represent an increase of 366% over the 1946 population. Changes in breeding pairs, as well as in the size